



Tourism and Events Department
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To: Linda Dillenbeck, Chairperson
Tourism Development Commission

From: Reed Pryor, Parks and Recreation Director

Date: June 19, 2018

Subject: Portable Ballfield Fencing

A funding proposal to purchase portable fencing for the city softball fields in order to be more competitive in bringing fast pitch softball and youth baseball tournaments to Scottsdale.

Background

Triple Crown Sports, a tournament organization business has been hosting baseball tournaments annually in Scottsdale since 2009. The annual tournament has over 200 teams participating in various age divisions that compete over two weekends each spring. The Triple Crown Sports has requested bringing a large-scale softball tournament in the fall 2018. They have been playing at various locations in Phoenix for the past 15 years. The organization visited Scottsdale and feels the facilities in Scottsdale are superior and provides a quality product that they desire for their tournament.

This event would be an annual request, bringing approximately 200-230 teams for a Friday through Sunday equating to approximately 1200 to 1500 rooms nights in Scottsdale. Triple Crown has a requirement for teams to stay at approved partnered hotels.

The temporary fencing is a necessity, as the existing field fencing is set to accommodate adult slow pitch leagues and have the ability for the fields to be used for multiple purposes, such as flag football and soccer. The American Softball Association, the governing body for fast pitch women's softball, requires the outfield fence to be within 190' to 225' which is well within the standard existing fence distance that ranges from 300' to 325' on city fields.

Analysis and Assessment

Having the availability to provide temporary fencing for girls/women's fast pitch softball would expand the options for potential request for additional tournament requests. The ability to host more fast pitch and youth baseball tournaments would have a positive increase on direct reservation revenue and the associated economic impact for

destination tournaments. The city has 18 fields less than 19 miles apart, conveniently located off the 101 corridor. This allows for a wide range of potential age division or size of tournament. Parks and Recreation would collaborate with Experience Scottsdale to promote Scottsdale facilities and this new amenity to generate an increase in tournament requests.

The benefits of hosting youth tournaments is the direct economic impact through room nights and the exposure of the City of Scottsdale with all the great venues and facilities the city has to offer.

Proposal Summary

Request the Tourism Department provide funding to purchase portable temporary fencing for all of the softball fields in the city parks. Each unit cost approximately \$910, total for 18 including sale tax is \$17,482. Each unit includes a 200' fence package, enduro fence and ground socket anchors.

Funding Availability & Potential Options

There are currently tourism development funds available in the budget to support the request. Pending TDC discussion, the following are options for consideration:

- 1) Recommend Tourism Development Funding for all or part of the requested amount of \$17,482.
- 2) Take no action or additional evaluation.
- 3) Alternatively, if there are additional questions or information needed for further consideration, staff will proceed accordingly.